

## 2013-2014 - Changes to the Alaska Alternate Assessment Training Site <ak.k12test.com>

### Policy or Procedural Changes

#### 1. Updated the Calendar of Important Dates

Please refer to this calendar for Alternate Assessment and related information updated for 2013-2014.

#### 2. Braille and Large Print Orders

District Test Coordinators will send Braille and Large Print test orders to EED by November 28, 2013. Please alert your DTC if you have a student requiring one of these assessments. These tests will be mailed to the DTC in mid-January. If a student arrives late in a district, after the deadline, and requires a Braille or Large Print test, contact EED before December 15, 2013.

#### 3. New State Standards

In June 2012, the Alaska State Board of Education adopted new standards for reading, writing, and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards are equal in rigor to the common core state standards (CCSS). The Dynamic Learning Maps project has developed Essential Elements for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Alaska educators will be invited to review and provide feedback regarding these Essential Elements. Watch for the recruitment notice.

#### 4. Test Security Agreements (TSA)

New regulations that effect test security agreements were adopted by the State Board of Education. The intent of the regulation is to ensure that one district employee (the district test coordinator) is responsible for the oversight and security of the test administration for all the assessments included in our student assessment system. These assessments include: High School Graduation Qualification Exam (HSGQE), Standards Based Assessments (SBAs), Alternate Assessments (AA), English Language Proficiency assessments (ELP), , and Work Keys assessments (WK). Test security agreements will continue to be used to provide guidance specific for test administrators, mentors, qualified assessors, and other testing personnel.

#### 5. Alaska membership in national consortiums

Alaska has joined three consortiums: Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) for general education students; Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) for students with significant cognitive disabilities; and Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems (ASSETS) for English language learners.

#### 6. New standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Alaska - DLM Essential Elements for English/Language Arts and Mathematics will be rolled out in fall 2014. Science assessments will continue to use the Extended Grade Level Expectations.

## **7. DLM Field Testing**

If teachers participate in the new alternate assessment field tests (Dynamic Learning Maps), they will complete a First Contact Survey and Personal Needs Profile for each student participating. The field tests are voluntary. There is discussion about taking either the regular alternate assessments OR the field tests to avoid double-testing. Field tests will not have student results or reports. Field testing will be given in three separate windows: January 15-31, March 17-April 11, May 1-end of school year. Each field test will test different items. The field test will be online.

## **8. Alternate Access for ELLs**

For the first time ever, an English language proficiency test has been developed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. It is intended only for English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities severe enough to prevent meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment. Contact Grace Gray, 907-465-8432, [grace.gray@alaska.gov](mailto:grace.gray@alaska.gov) for additional information and training.

## **9. Reminders:**

- **DIASA – Data Interaction for Alaska Student Assessments**

DIASA is a dynamic, Web-based system that provides online access to student performance for Alaska's student assessments. The Alternate Assessment data is now included in the site.'

- **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Amended, effective January 1, 2009 (title 42, Chapter 126, Section 12102 (3) (B), Definition of Disability. Congress clarified, "an individual is not 'regarded as' an individual with a disability if the impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less." There is a suggested form posted on EED's website which districts may use, or districts may create their own documentation of records keeping. Located under Test Coordinator Resources, <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/accommodations.html>

## **Training and Continuous Improvement**

### **1. Alternate Assessment Training and Committees 2013-2014**

- Alternate Assessment Community of Practice, September 16, 2013
- Special Education Director Conference, September 17, 2013
- Returning Mentor Webinar, September 25, 2013
- New Mentor Webinar, September 26, 2013
- Annual Mentor Training, November 7-8, 2013, Anchorage, AK
- Pre-Test Mentor Webinar, January 24, 2014, 3:30-4:30 PM
- Post-Test Mentor Webinar, April 8, 2014, 3:30-4:30 PM

## Specific Website Changes

### Change in Full vs. Refresher status

1. If a user achieved QA or QT status LAST YEAR, the system will automatically set that user to the Refresher Training and Refresher Proficiency Test status
2. If a user did not participate in the training/proficiency system last year, the user will be set at the full training and full testing.
3. Users who do not pass the Refresher Proficiency test within the first 2 tries will be reset to the Full Training and Full Proficiency test.

NOTE: Users who need to have their proficiency tests reset will need the QT (for AITs or QAs) or DRA HelpDesk (for QTs) to ALSO reset status from RETURNING to NEW in the Admin section – this resets the user to taking the full training and full proficiency tests.

### Change in Upgrade responsibility

The system will automatically upgrade returning users from AIT to QA or QT status (based on last year's status). The upgrade will be implemented when the returning user has completed all required online training AND passed all required proficiency tests.

NOTE: QTs will continue to upgrade new AITs, after the AIT has completed online training, proficiency tests, AND appropriately administered a set of Training Practice Tests (reviewed by the QT).

### Materials tab

#### 1. Organization improvements

The Materials Tab has been reorganized. Main topic headings are listed to the left. When you choose one topic heading, the document titles related to that document will become visible to the right.

#### 2. Two types of Practice Tests

- **Training Practice Tests** are located in the Training Support section of the Materials Tab. Titles all begin with "AKAA\_Training\_Practice\_Test\_..."
- **Student Practice Tests** are located in the Student Practice Tests section of the Materials Tab. Titles all begin with "AKAA\_Student\_Practice\_Test\_..."

### Data Entry tab

#### 1. Entering Student Caseload Information

All student names and demographic information should be entered into the online system by February 17, 2014. Student data entry is available throughout the test

window; we encourage early entry of all students eligible for the Alternate Assessment so data entry and submission can be monitored. Additionally, DRA will use the student data entry to inform the Writing Scoring study.

All data entered in the Student Setup and Score Entry sections (used in training) will be deleted on January 24, 2014. You may begin entering actual student data on January 27, 2013.

## **2. Student Communication Survey (formerly the LCI survey link)**

This survey has been removed.

### **New Mentor tab**

Unlike years past where New Mentors have been required to attend a multiple-day training in Juneau, EED has moved to an online training platform for New Mentors. The contents of the New Mentor tab are **required** training for QAs seeking to be upgraded to QT status. Four topics are addressed (Training Protégés, Testing, Student Outcomes, and Monitoring Assessments). Each section contains a narrated PowerPoint, a table of contents of specific topics discussed, and a downloadable copy of the PowerPoint with the script included in the NOTES section. Subsequent participation at Annual Mentor training is also required.

District QTs must train a potential new Qualified Mentor-Trainer to QA status prior to the new Mentor accessing the New Mentor tab.